

Part 1

Look at the pictures below. Do they show a man or a woman? If you have to choose, you may say that Picture 1 is a man and Picture 2 is a woman. Actually, in Picture 1, the left side (A) is a man's face and the right side (B) is a woman's. Picture 2 is just a mirror image of Picture 1.

Why do the pictures look different? Most people process images with the right brain. Also, each side of the brain controls the opposite side of the body. This means that the right brain receives information from the left field of vision. So, people mainly see the right side of the other person's face, even if they think they are looking at the whole face.

Part 2

Now, look at *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci. The woman in the picture is famous for her mysterious smile, but why does her smile look mysterious? It is because only the left side of the woman's face (B) is smiling. We feel someone is smiling only when his or her right side is smiling, so the painting gives us a strange impression. By using this effect, da Vinci makes us wonder.

What does this mean for *you*? When people look at you, they mainly see the right side of your face. Even if you do not put on your makeup properly or shave cleanly on the left side of your face, some people may not notice.